

USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Malheur Resource Area, Vale District
Vale, OR 97918

Finding of No Significant Impact
For
Maintaining Viable Populations of Wild Horses
In the Hog Creek Herd Management Area
EA OR-030-03-018

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and all other available information, I have determined that the Proposed Action alternative (#1) and Continuing Existing Management alternative (#2) do not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Adoption of the No Action alternative (#3) could result in significant impacts. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based in the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts discussed in the EA have been disclosed. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Vale District, Malheur Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplains, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). There would be no adverse impacts from invasive, noninvasive species.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State, or local natural resource-related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.

8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural resource surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. All trap locations will be surveyed for cultural and threatened and endangered species. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat, that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act, were identified.
10. This proposed action is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

s/Tom Dabbs

July 24, 2003

Malheur Resource Area Manager
Vale District Office

Date